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Task Force on Education Statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session,** the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Task Force on Education Statistics, convened by the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The report reviews the main measurement frameworks currently being used in the field of education for purposes of data collection at the international, regional or national levels and how they affect the production and use of statistics. The review also looks at coordination mechanisms among relevant agencies with respect to different stages of the statistical production and dissemination cycle. In addition, the report proposes possible ways to improve coordination, data collection and production and dissemination.

The Commission may wish to express its views on the findings, conclusions and recommendations for future work in this area.

* E/CN.3/2009/1.

** See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 24* (E/2008/24), chap. I.B., decision 39/102.

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Report of the Task Force on Education Statistics[1]

A. Introduction

1. At its thirty-eighth session, the Statistical Commission, having considered the report of Statistics Canada on education statistics (E/CN.3/2007/2), to set up a task force on education statistics comprising interested countries and agencies and asked the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to be the convener of the Task Force.[2] At the thirty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission, the Task Force presented a progress report (E/CN.3/2008/3) and the Commission requested the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, on behalf of the Task Force, to report to it at its next session.[3]

2. The present report[4] summarizes a review undertaken by the Education Task Force in order (a) to examine conceptual frameworks guiding the collection and reporting of education statistics in international agencies and national offices and assess the need for a worldwide framework guiding the collection of education data; (b) to survey existing coordination mechanisms among relevant agencies and propose solutions to avoid duplication and to reduce country response burden; (c) to identify potential gaps relative to emerging policy demands, as identified by international organizations or national authorities; and (d) to provide recommendations on possible approaches to fill these gaps and to improve international coordination. The review integrates the findings from a document review, interviews with members of international organizations and the responses to a survey sent to Task Force members (see the annex to the present report). The present document describes the major issues identified in the review, and summarizes the recommendations approved by the Task Force. The complete report is presented as a background document.

B. Statistical frameworks

3. The Task Force examined the degree to which conceptual frameworks are used by international agencies and national offices to guide the collection and reporting of education statistics. The frameworks reviewed include those of international agencies with mandates to coordinate and utilize international statistical information and national agencies with mandates, unique to each country, to utilize and generate national statistics and indicators. These agencies differ in the degree to which their operations are influenced by legislation (United States of America, Eurostat), macrostatistical agency operations (Russian Federation), historical precedent (France) or goals established to monitor particular educational objectives (the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Eurostat and the UNESCO Institute for

[1] The Task Force was composed of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, France, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Eurostat, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the United Nations Statistics Division.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 24* (E/2007/24), chap. I.B, decision 38/101.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 24* (E/2008/24), chap. I.B, decision 39/102.

[4] Prepared by Thomas Smith and Stephen Heyneman of Vanderbilt University (United States of America), consultants to the Task Force.

Statistics). The frameworks used by Australia, Brazil, Canada and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reflect an underlying conceptual model for organizing statistics (e.g., inputs, processes, outputs and outcomes), yet decisions about what data to collect in any given data collection can be influenced by the data needs of policymakers.

4. The framework for education and training statistics of the Australian Bureau of Statistics[5] establishes definitions of learning activities and provides a structured approach to classifying statistics by focusing on (a) an underlying model that identifies various elements (context, participant, non-participants, providers, resources, activities and outputs and outcomes), (b) a multilevel structure (individual, organization, system) and (c) both activity and industry perspectives. The Australian Bureau of Statistics reports that this framework has been a useful tool for identifying gaps and overlaps and determining statistical priorities for further development, as well as assessing data comparability across data collections. Members of the Task Force agreed that the Australian framework represents a useful guide for countries wishing to develop their own national frameworks.

5. The review found variation across countries in the formalization of frameworks for collecting education data; the extent to which the frameworks focus on concepts versus indicators or specific measures; and the different uses of the data collected, e.g., management, benchmarking, analysis or evaluation. From an international perspective it is important to distinguish between a policy framework, which represents a model for how educational constructs fit together (e.g., the OECD matrix of outcomes, policy levers and antecedents by system, schools, classrooms and learners) and a statistical framework, which turns the concepts into measures and actual data and indicators (e.g., the International Standard Classification of Education Programmes). The agencies interviewed felt it critical that there be a shared statistical framework across organizations, as definitions and classification schemes need to be compatible across international and national data collections. There was less consensus around the need for a common conceptual framework, as each organization has its own constituencies (member States, stakeholders) and different policy goals.

C. Coordination mechanisms

6. The review examined existing coordination mechanisms among international organizations in collecting, processing and reporting education data and identified areas where further collaboration could help to avoid duplication and reduce country response burden.

7. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics, OECD and Eurostat collaborate extensively on a data collection which covers participation and completion rates and the costs and resources of education. Participating countries submit data to a unique address that all agencies are able to access. This reduces the burden on countries and ensures that the international organizations are working with the same "version" of submitted data. While controls are in place to ensure that the participating agencies

[5] "Measuring Learning in Australia: A Framework for Education and Training Statistics, Australia, 2003", available at www.abs.gov.au.

are notified if a country changes or updates submitted data, there is a need for better maintenance of metadata indicating when and why changes to data were made.

8. As agencies are on different publication timelines, edits to data during the review process of one organization can end up contradicting data that other organizations have already published. Further, different publication schedules and different sources of population data can lead to the reporting of different measures when data from outside the joint data collection (e.g., financial data from the International Monetary Fund) are updated. Better tracking and documenting of these changes would help both agencies and countries to understand differences in reported indicators.

9. All of the organizations interviewed and countries surveyed noted the continued challenges of applying the International Standard Classification of Education Programmes to the classification of education programmes and related data (enrolments, completions, staffing and finance), and of classifying and reporting educational attainment data. To address some of these issues, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics has begun a review of the 1997 edition of the International Standard Classification, in collaboration with OECD and Eurostat, to examine current definitions and classification criteria and determine if revisions or new conceptual definitions are necessary. The Institute is in the process of forming a global technical advisory panel to guide the review strategy, take part in regional consultations, assist in targeting research and provide inputs for the preparation of the recommendations.

10. OECD, Eurostat, and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics also coordinate, to a lesser extent, their sample survey and assessment work. For example, the European Commission is contributing funding (directly to countries) and attending advisory meetings for both the OECD teaching and learning international survey and the programme for the international assessment of adult competencies. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics has supported non-OECD countries in analysing data of the programme for international student assessment and jointly published an analysis of results of the assessment with OECD.

11. OECD and the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement compete for countries' participation in and funding of their student assessments. The two kinds of studies differ in their purposes, conceptual frameworks and sampling plans: the International Association focuses on content taught to students in particular grades while OECD is concerned with broader literacy and life skills among an age cohort near the end of secondary schooling. There were consultations between OECD and the International Association as to why countries differed in performance rankings on the programme for international student assessment and the trends in international mathematics and science study. A number of countries remain concerned about the costs and data collection burden associated with participating in both studies.

12. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the United Nations Statistics Division exchange census literacy data biannually in order to improve coverage on both sides. The two organizations check and "process" one another's data and advise of any errors or inconsistencies. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics sends its final data tables (including data that it collects on literacy and educational attainment) each year to the Statistics Division and the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for validity checking across agencies. Definitions

and classifications for education statistics in the Statistics Division's *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*[6] are based on definitions provided by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. National accommodations to these recommendations are collected as metadata. There could be a role for the Institute in providing technical assistance and verification of reporting practices. For reporting of enrolment and attainment data from the census, national statistical offices are left to map their national programmes to the International Standard Classification of Education Programmes on their own. Although national mappings exist, their implementation is not controlled nor monitored. There is no critical review of this practice, which could lead to comparability problems.

13. Problems of coordination and comparability of data have generally been greater among organizations working with less developed countries, where the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and others (e.g., the World Bank, UNICEF, individual donor agencies) maintain separate data collections. One example is the use by UNICEF of school attendance measures based on household survey data that produce different results compared to administrative data and national estimates. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics, jointly with UNICEF, published a report on out-of-school children and has sought to establish a methodology which could combine data sources, although this has proven to be a particularly complex issue that has yet to be resolved.

14. One of the main country concerns in the reporting of education indicators published by international organizations involves the use of population projections from the Population Division instead of country-level estimates, which can lead to differences in population-based indicators such as enrolment rates. A Population Division task force is currently looking into strengthening the Division's population estimates. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics is contributing a technical paper that looks at issues related to education data. The task force last reported to the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities in September 2008.

D. Data collection burden on countries

15. In the survey that was distributed to Task Force members and selected other countries, costs for adhering to international requirements were the greatest concern. The examples given, however, mainly concerned costs related to participating in the OECD international indicators of education systems project and the country-level costs for making estimations or special manipulations because national data do not clearly align with international definitions. Although several lower-income countries report having to provide similar data to multiple international organizations in a given year, issues of overlapping responsibility and burden are difficult to quantify because currently available data from one organization may not meet the specific data needs of another organization. While publishing data on accessible websites has helped to alleviate some of the need to collect duplicate data, better coordination across organizations regarding planned and ad hoc data collections could help to reduce country burden.

[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.8.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

16. The Task Force makes recommendations based on the framework mapping exercise and analysis of the interview and survey responses, while taking into account feasibility, relative importance for reducing country reporting burdens and improved data comparability.

1. Statistical frameworks

17. There has been a significant improvement in the quality and coverage of educational statistics in the last decade. Much of this improvement is a result of collaboration among international organizations and national representatives and experts on definitions (e.g., expenditure on education from public sources), concepts (importance of measuring enrolment by single year of age), methodologies (e.g., mapping programmes to the International Standard Classification of Education Programmes) and "integrated" data collection across agencies (e.g., the joint UNESCO Institute for Statistics-OECD-Eurostat data collection, collaboration in respect of assessments). These efforts to build a cross-national statistical framework are essential for the comparability of education data collected from different countries and reported by different agencies. While there are areas where increased collaboration and coordination are needed, the International Standard Classification and existing definitions and classification schemes of the joint data collection and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics are the foundation for comparability and should be regularly revisited and renewed.

18. There is less need for a uniform, cross-national conceptual framework that would dictate areas of data development. Currently, international organizations work with a variety of conceptual frameworks — ranging from goals that need to be monitored to models attempting to explain relationships between inputs and outcomes — that meet the different policy needs of the organizations, their member States and stakeholders. It is critical, however, that when a single organization begins work translating elements of its conceptual framework (e.g., lifelong learning) into its statistical framework (how to measure lifelong learning), international organizations need to collaborate so that the resulting definitions, concepts and methodologies meet the needs of various stakeholders and lead to compatibility of measures across agencies. While the Task Force recognizes the value of conceptual frameworks at both the national and international level for improving education statistics (e.g., identifying gaps, anticipating emerging issues), a single conceptual framework that applies to all organizations is not recommended.

2. Coordination among international agencies

19. Collaboration and coordination among international organizations in data collection, processing and reporting, particularly Eurostat, OECD and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, is stronger now than ever. Nevertheless, there are instances where international agencies (a) request similar data in uncoordinated requests; (b) lack coordination in data collection schedules; (c) use terms with different definitions; and (d) are handicapped by differing internal regulations pertaining to validation and the mechanisms of data use. This requires a rethinking in order to meet future challenges. The Task Force makes specific recommendations on issues of data sharing, the timing and sequencing of publications, the dissemination of data and access to them, as well as a recommendation to constitute a task force on the

International Standard Classification of Education Programmes and an inter-agency panel on education statistics.

20. The Task Force recommends that the UNESCO Institute for Statistics create an expert group on the International Standard Classification for reaching consensus on developing methodology, updating definitions, providing country support (e.g., organizing peer reviews) and developing procedures for mapping educational attainment data to the International Standard Classification (e.g., data gathered through population censuses, labour force or adult education surveys). There is already considerable collaboration among OECD, Eurostat and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics on the International Standard Classification, but it would be useful to formalize these relationships and bring on board other international organizations such as the United Nations Statistics Division and UNICEF that collect data on educational participation and attainment. As the International Standard Classification is the key statistical framework for translating national data into internationally comparable categories, sustained focus on improving its applicability and implementation is warranted.

21. The Task Force also recommends the creation of an intersecretariat working group on education statistics. Led by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, this group would work to maintain and promote the development of international standards, push to reduce duplicative efforts across international agencies, set global strategies for data development, promote the participation of non-OECD countries in international data collection efforts, raise the profile of education statistics, develop collaborative strategies for improving the quality of education statistics in non-OECD countries through capacity-building activities, ensure efficient data exchange among agencies and support the allocation of resources to statistics at the institutional level. While a number of agencies already cooperate informally across a range of these functions, it would be useful to formalize this collaborative structure and expand its membership.

22. One task of this intersecretariat group could be to improve cooperation among agencies and countries for the purpose of reducing reporting burdens (e.g., from ad hoc requests when data are available in another organization) and reducing inconsistencies by setting standards for uniform application of statistical frameworks (e.g., to harmonize data collection methodology between household survey and administrative data collection).

23. Another important task of the intersecretariat group would be to better coordinate fundraising for and the implementation of statistical capacity-building as it relates to education. Current efforts by national and international agencies to improve statistical systems in developing countries are often uncoordinated, leading to inconsistent and inefficient initiatives. Formal collaboration among organizations to coordinate funding for activities at the country or regional level could help improve the targeting of resources.

24. While it is beyond the scope of this review to recommend particular agencies for this group or set a more specific agenda for collaboration, a formally organized body with a procedure for agenda setting and resource allocation could help to improve the quality of education statistics cross-nationally and reduce country burden.

F. Points for discussion

25. **The Statistical Commission may wish to endorse the recommendations of the Task Force:**

(a) **To set up an expert group on the implementation of the International Standard Classification of Education Programmes;**

(b) **To establish an intersecretariat working group on education to improve coordination mechanisms, especially to reduce country reporting burden and to promote the development of international standards.**

Annex

Methodology

1. In October 2007, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics commissioned Professors Thomas Smith and Stephen Heyneman of Vanderbilt University in the United States of America to prepare a review for the Task Force on Education Statistics established by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

2. To that end the consultants collected and analysed conceptual frameworks and other related documents that the organizations use to guide the collection of education data. They also interviewed individuals in international organizations regarding their coordination of education statistics. Representatives of OECD were interviewed on 1 October 2007 and representatives of the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat) on 2 October 2007. Interviews with representatives of the World Bank were conducted on 3 December 2007 and with representatives of UNICEF, UNDP and the Statistics Division in January 2008. In addition, current and former officials of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics were interviewed and written questions were submitted regarding additional issues that arose as the report was being developed.

3. The consultants also drafted a survey for Task Force members and selected other countries (determined in collaboration with the UNESCO Institute for Statistics) to examine the education data collection activities in which countries participate, including those sponsored by UNESCO itself and other United Nations agencies, OECD, Eurostat, the World Bank, regional development banks, regional organizations such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, bilateral agencies and others.

4. The survey was intended to uncover areas where these data collection activities are coordinated well, where they may overlap and where there may still be gaps, and to give countries the opportunity to make suggestions and/or recommendations for improving the current practice of collection and dissemination of cross-national educational statistics. The survey was initially sent to Task Force members in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, France, the Russian Federation and South Africa by e-mail on 25 November 2007. On 20 December, a letter from the Director of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics was sent by e-mail and fax, along with the survey, to ministers of education and chief statisticians in selected UNESCO member countries to explain the goals of the Task Force and to invite them to participate. The countries invited included Chile, China, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria, Qatar, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States. Polite reminders were sent to e-mail contacts in December 2007 and January 2008. Responses were received from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, France, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and the United States.

5. A draft of the review was presented to the Task Force by Professor Smith at a meeting hosted by Eurostat on 4 and 5 September in Brussels. On the basis of input from the Task Force, additional information on data burden was sought through a follow-up survey of Task Force members. Representatives of Brazil and Canada submitted responses.

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Report of the International Labour Organization on labour statistics and on the outcomes of the eighteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which is submitted to the Commission for discussion. The present report describes the priorities for future development work in international labour statistics that have been identified by ILO in response to the recommendations of the programme review considered by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session and through the mechanism of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS). The report also outlines the recommendations of the eighteenth ICLS on its organization, frequency and duration, and discusses the provision of support to national statistical systems for the production of employment statistics. The Commission may wish to express its views on the points raised for discussion in paragraph 36 of the report.

* E/CN.3/2009/1.

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Report of the International Labour Organization on labour statistics and on the outcomes of the eighteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians

I. Introduction

1. At its thirty-ninth session, the Statistical Commission considered a programme review report on labour statistics prepared, at the request of the Commission, by the Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

2. The Statistical Commission commended the programme review report, took note of the recommendations therein and welcomed the constructive response and commitments made by the International Labour Organization (ILO).[1] It emphasized the need for prioritization of the recommendations, given existing resources, and requested the development of a road map for their implementation.

3. The Commission asked the donor community to support international technical assistance to enhance the capability of developing countries to produce high-quality labour statistics and noted that technical assistance should be coordinated and implemented within existing technical cooperation programmes.

4. In welcoming the work of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), the Commission suggested it might wish to review ICLS methods of operation, in particular the frequency and duration of its sessions. The Commission requested that ILO report to it at its fortieth session on the outcomes of the Conference and other actions taken in the implementation of the recommendations of the review report, including the road map.

5. The eighteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians was held in Geneva from 24 November to 5 December 2008 and was attended by delegates from more than 112 member States, as well as by employer and worker representatives and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. In all, there were more than 250 participants. The main outcomes of the Conference were the adoption of new international statistical standards on child labour and working time. The new standards provide comprehensive international guidelines on substantive methods to measure each topic and their application in countries at different levels of development. The Conference held extensive discussions on possible future ILO work on the development of methods in labour statistics, including the priorities identified in the review report.

6. The present report describes the priorities for future development work in international labour statistics that have been identified by ILO in consultation with the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) and others, and describes the strategy proposed to take this work forward. These priorities were developed in response to the recommendations of the programme review and through the ICLS mechanism. They also draw on other inputs from the constituents of ILO and on the knowledge of ILO staff members regarding the needs and desires

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 4* (E/2008/24), chap. I.B.

of countries with less developed statistical systems that may not have had the resources to contribute to the programme review.

7. The report also outlines the recommendations of the eighteenth ICLS on its organization, frequency and duration, and discusses the provision of support to national statistical systems for the production of employment statistics.

II. Priorities for future work

A. Changing structure of the labour force

8. The topic encompasses a wide range of issues associated with both demographic and structural variables. Some of the most important of these are discussed below.

1. Ageing

9. The ageing of the labour force is a significant element of its changing structure for a large number of countries across the world. Issues that need to be addressed include: (a) ageing workforce estimates and projections and labour force participation of older workers; (b) the exploration of statistics on elderly labour utilization and underutilization, skills transmission and development, and potential labour supply among elderly economically inactive; (c) design of labour force surveys to be able to predict movements from economic inactivity to employment among older workers; (d) the measurement of changing retirement behaviours, the exit-from-work process or patterns of older workers (such as reducing hours, etc.); and (e) design of longitudinal studies to measure ageing and retirement.

10. Presently, national agencies are approaching the measurement of the ageing labour force in different ways, in some cases, by fine-tuning existing data outputs, or through a broader approach to ageing-related issues across a number of Government agencies. Standardized concepts and measures, as well as methodologies are therefore required to produce comparable key ageing indicators and to describe and characterize the work experiences of persons aged 50 and over. These should be based on identification of the relevant key policy issues, translation of these needs into statistical concepts and measures, identification of currently available measures and definitions of key concepts.

2. Degree/type of labour force connection

11. Another element of the changing structure issue relates to the different combinations of labour force status and connection to the labour force. Cross-sectional data and, more ambitiously, flow data, could be used to represent combinations of persons in employment and on labour market employment schemes and measures; in education; on long-term absence; receiving partial pension or social security benefits, etc. Flow data to show trajectories of young persons into economic activity and of older persons after retirement, complemented by longitudinal studies of "whole-life careers", could show alternations between work and studies throughout life that illustrate labour force connections. This passage from school to work increasingly involves the phenomena of later graduation and later entrance into the labour market. Key indicators could be developed to relate to

precarious job holders and to persons at the margins of the labour market. Labour migration and the evolution of short- and long-term movements across national boundaries for production and work also have an impact on the structure of the labour force and national labour markets.

3. New categories between employment/unemployment and work statistics

12. To better reflect changes in the structure of the labour force for economic and social policymaking and to describe modern labour markets and work, the conceptual basis for the current statistics of employment and unemployment could be examined. Their usefulness could be improved if the notion of "work" incorporated the contribution to national production, to income generation and subsistence, as well as the social recognition of activities currently left out from labour force, including unpaid non-market services, such as volunteer work and household service work. Labour force flows between market activity and household production for one's own use and the relationship with economic development could be addressed and might help to describe the social as well as economic realities connected to the changing structure of the labour force and work.

4. Priorities on the changing structure of the labour force for participants at the eighteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians

13. Clear identification of and study of movement between the categories of employee, employer, own-account worker and other such statuses in employment are also key to understanding the changing structure of the labour force. The Conference thus indicated as priority items work on: (a) revising the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93); and (b) a possible revision of the current international standards on statistics of the economically active population, employment and unemployment adopted by the thirteenth ICLS (1982).

Road map

14. In examining these and other issues and ways of taking the work forward, ILO contacted the Paris City Group on Labour and Compensation for their input and interest in leading the work. No formal response was received from the Group, although many of its members sent in individual contributions on those aspects considered important, as reflected above. It is not clear that the Group continues to function as originally constituted, and in consultation with the CCSA it was decided to bring the matter to the attention of the Commission. Several members indicated a desire to continue the discussion through a more informal process of country groups around individual topics. The proposals are therefore as follows:

(a) ILO would lead work in collaboration with other agencies on aspects relating to possible revision of ICSE-93 and of the current international standards on statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment. It is intended that proposals will be made to a meeting of experts with a view to presenting results or progress reports to a future ICLS, maybe the twentieth, to be held in 2014;

(b) There is a need to identify national statistical offices or other supranational organizations that could lead informal groups of countries to work in other areas, such as ageing, with support and inputs from ILO. Proposals from such groups would then be brought to a formal meeting of experts for consideration.

B. Labour statistics framework and dynamics of the labour force

15. The need to extend the labour statistics framework, in part to deal better with dynamics of the labour force, and in part to reflect some of the issues raised above, has received a good deal of attention in recent years. Related topics have been discussed in international meetings, including ICLS, the Conference of European Statisticians and the Paris City Group. The eighteenth ICLS endorsed the recommendation of the programme review that this was a priority area, especially with regard to the development of statistics on flows. However, there are no international standards on any of these topics.

Road map

16. The discussion of the possibility of developing international standards by a task force or working group is recommended, as it has been beneficial for other topics in the past. Such a group would need to be made up of national statisticians who are interested in and available to make a contribution. The group would meet with the clear and specific mandate to discuss the various dimensions involved, as well as to determine feasibility and an approach to develop international guidelines on these topics. While the task force would need to be organized by a national statistical institute, ILO would contribute actively to the discussions, and would facilitate taking material forward to more formal meetings of experts and the ICLS.

17. Specifically, it is expected that the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland would lead this work, with support from ILO and an informal working group of countries. A report on results or on progress may be made to the nineteenth ICLS in 2011. In any event, outcomes need to feed into any revision of the resolution on the economically active population mentioned in paragraph 14 (a) above.

C. Informal employment

18. The review report identified informal employment and the non-observed economy among the priority areas for labour statistics in the future. The report indicated that there was a need for a working group to discuss the topic and to suggest where improvements in quality and coverage could be made.

Road map

19. The following activities are currently under way:

(a) The Expert Group on Informal Sector Statistics (Delhi Group) already exists and is working in this area with the objective of producing, in the near future, in collaboration with ILO, a manual on surveys of informal employment and informal sector. ILO will raise the issue at the meeting of the Delhi Group, to be held on 29 and 30 January 2009. A substantial amount of developmental work has already been accomplished on the measurement of informal employment, including the adoption of an international statistical standard definition by the seventeenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (2003);

(b) Volume 2 of the System of National Accounts will address informal employment from the viewpoint of national accounts;

(c) The regional commissions, United Nations Statistics Division, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing and ILO are involved in a development account project to generate statistics relating to employment and production in the informal sector.

20. Further work in this area is thus likely to concentrate on technical cooperation and the exchange of national experience.

D. Measurement of productivity

21. Labour statistics are used by many countries as base statistics in the production of national accounts estimates, including labour productivity. However, the understanding of basic concepts and definitions relating to labour statistics varies to a significant extent between labour statisticians and national accountants. Furthermore, countries apply different methods of aggregation and adjustment when using labour statistics in their national accounts. Consequently, issues arise with respect to international comparisons between countries and even comparison over time within countries.

22. Work in this area therefore has two major objectives:

(a) To arrive at a common understanding between labour statisticians and national accountants on concepts, definitions and methods for producing the labour statistics used for national accounts purposes;

(b) To develop international standards for producing national accounts indicators such as labour productivity, using agreed methods of aggregation and adjustments.

Road map

23. ILO, in consultation with the United Nations Statistics Division and Eurostat, is to organize joint regional seminars for labour statisticians and national accountants. The objective of the seminars is to provide a forum for an exchange of information between labour statisticians and national accountants on the uses in national accounts of labour statistics in its widest sense, including for the measurement of labour productivity, and how best these needs could be served by labour statisticians. In discussions with the editorial team of the System of National Accounts, it was felt that this would also improve the communication between the two groups. The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities endorsed the proposal, with other institutions indicating a wish to be involved in the exercise. It is hoped that the first of the seminars will take place in the first quarter of 2009.

24. There are as yet no firm plans for addressing the issue of international standards for aggregation and adjustment of labour statistics when producing national accounts aggregates. The recent adoption of a resolution on working time by the eighteenth ICLS is a contribution towards such standards since the resolution included accepted methods for measuring labour input to produce estimates of labour productivity.

E. Other priority areas of work identified by the eighteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians

25. The discussions at the eighteenth ICLS included working group sessions involving in-depth discussion on the measurement of decent work, on indicators of labour underutilization, and on the measurement of volunteer work. As a result, the Conference adopted resolutions providing guidance on the future work of the International Labour Office on the development of measures on measuring and monitoring decent work and on labour underutilization.

26. The resolution on labour underutilization called for a set of indicators that would be complementary to the unemployment rate and more fully reflect realities in the world of work in many countries. Indicators related to labour slack, low earnings and skills mismatch were seen as important potential indicators. Participants felt that it would be important for these new indicators to be taken as seriously as the unemployment rate and used together with the unemployment rate in assessing the performance of their labour markets.

27. The Conference also made recommendations concerning work on the completion of a manual on the measurement of volunteer work that had been drafted as a part of a partnership between ILO and the Johns Hopkins University Center for Civil Society Studies. The Conference also provided guidance to ILO on other items of the future work of the Organization.

Road map

28. ILO will lead work on the measurement of decent work, including further work on indicators of labour underutilization and of social dialogue, in collaboration with other agencies, such as within the context of the ILO/Economic Commission for Europe/European Union Commission Task Force on the Measurement of the Quality of Employment. Pilot studies and desk reviews have started, and the results are to be reported to the nineteenth ICLS to be held in 2011.

29. Work on the development of a harmonized framework for wages statistics will be carried out by ILO in collaboration with national statistical offices and other agencies, possibly in the context of a working group. A report may be ready for discussion at the twentieth ICLS in 2014.

30. With respect to revision of the resolution on social security statistics adopted by the ninth ICLS (1957), the Social Security Department of ILO will take the lead following specific requests from participants at the eighteenth ICLS. It is not yet clear how the work will be implemented, or who will be involved.

III. Organization, duration and frequency of International Conferences of Labour Statisticians

31. The role, frequency and duration of ICLS was discussed in depth at the eighteenth ICLS. There was strong support for retaining the technical standard-setting role of the Conference, and for the input of labour statisticians and labour ministry analysts on the critically important task of devising robust measurement approaches. The Conference also provided an opportunity for statisticians to advise ILO on its work agenda and work in support of member States. While reaffirming its

own overall responsibility for initiating, reviewing and approving new or updated standards, the eighteenth ICLS saw a number of possibilities for improving the efficiency of the Conference and its supporting mechanisms. In particular, delegates identified scope for greater use of technical and other expert groups at the international and regional levels and electronic means of consultation to advance technical work and bring well-informed guidance to the Conference for its deliberations and decisions.

32. Delegates agreed with suggestions to increase the frequency of the Conference to every three years, and to shorten its duration. Shortening the ICLS to five days would facilitate more senior participation and continuity between conferences, and perhaps allow more than one delegate per member State to attend, assisting the operations of the Conference if parallel sessions were necessary.

33. The Conference adopted a resolution concerning the organization, frequency and duration of the ICLS, recommending to the Governing Body of the ILO that International Conferences of Labour Statisticians be conducted every three years for a duration of five days. Should these recommendations be adopted by the Governing Body, the nineteenth ICLS would take place in 2011.

IV. Technical assistance to help countries produce high-quality labour statistics

34. ILO is engaged in discussions with development partners (including the African Development Bank and the World Bank) to improve the availability of technical assistance to developing countries, especially those in Africa, to improve their capacity to organize reasonably frequent labour force surveys. The Director-General of ILO has identified this as a major theme in the ILO Strategic Policy Framework for 2010-2015 and expects to develop a comprehensive technical cooperation programme on it in collaboration with other development partners.

V. Conclusions

35. The present report lays out the main issues relating to future work items in labour statistics for the global statistical system and details possible plans for their implementation over the period 2009-2014. It clearly stresses the need for cooperation between national statistical offices and international agencies, including ILO, to move towards achieving these goals. In this regard, the report, recognizing the resource challenges, recommends the use of coordination mechanisms, which require a commitment from national statistical offices and agencies not only to participate in conferences and meetings but also to free up skilled staff to get involved directly in the work through the many proposed working groups. They are also encouraged to offer to lead some of these discussion groups.

VI. Points for discussion

36. **The Commission is invited to:**

(a) **Review the proposals in the report with respect to future work;**

(b) Review the status of the Paris City Group on Labour and Compensation;

(c) Encourage national statistical offices and supranational agencies to take up the gauntlet of leading the work in the working groups proposed as a substitute for the Paris City Group;

(d) Confirm its support for the efforts of ILO and other development partners to secure technical assistance for a programme of labour force surveys, especially in Africa;

(e) Note the resolutions on working time and child labour adopted by the eighteenth ICLS;

(f) Note the action taken by the eighteenth ICLS in response to its recommendations on the organization, frequency and duration of the Conference.

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Items for discussion and decision: gender statistics

Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session,** the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women. The proposed actions to be taken by the Commission are set out in paragraph 36 of the report.

* E/CN.3/2009/1.

** See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 4* (E/2008/24), chap. I.A.

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Report of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 61/143 on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Statistical Commission to develop and propose, in consultation with the Commission on the Status of Women, and building on the work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, a set of possible indicators on violence against women in order to assist States in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women. To that end, the Friends of the Chair group was established by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session (decision 39/116). It consists of representatives of the following member States: Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Ghana, Italy, Mexico (the Chair) and Thailand, with the United Nations Statistics Division acting as secretariat of the group. In addition, the following international bodies agreed to act as observers: the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the World Health Organization.

II. Background

2. At its thirty-ninth session, the Statistical Commission requested the Friends of the Chair to facilitate the deliberation of this matter by reporting to the Commission at its fortieth session, proposing a list of basic indicators designed to assist national authorities in assessing the extent, prevalence and severity of violence against women.

3. The Friends of the Chair based their deliberations on the proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on Indicators to Measure Violence against Women, held in Geneva from 8 to 10 October 2007, as well as the discussions at the joint dialogue between the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session and the Commission on the Status on Women at its fifty-second session, including the report of 25 February 2008 of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women (A/HRC/7/6/Add.5).

4. The Chair and the Secretariat solicited input from all members and observers of the group, and it is incorporated in the present report.

5. The list of indicators identified by the Expert Group Meeting organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Statistics Division in October 2007 served as the starting point for discussion and for the substantive and technical contribution from participating members. That list of indicators is based primarily on two criteria, that is, on the availability of data at the national level and the seriousness of the violence

itself. The list, from the report of the Expert Group Meeting, consists of the following:

Physical violence

(a) *The percentage of women (over the total number of women) who have experienced physical violence during the last year*. This indicator should be disaggregated further by severity (moderate/severe); perpetrator (intimate/other relative/other known person/stranger/state authority); and frequency (one/few/many time(s)).

(b) *The percentage of women (over the total number of women) who have experienced physical violence during lifetime*. This indicator should be disaggregated further by severity (moderate/severe); perpetrator (intimate/other relative/other known person/stranger/state authority); and frequency (one/few/many time(s)).

Sexual violence

(c) *The percentage of women (over the total number of women) who have experienced rape/sexual assault during the last year*. This indicator should be disaggregated further by perpetrator (intimate/other relative/other known person/stranger/state authority); and frequency (one/few/many time(s)).

(d) *The percentage of women (over the total number of women) who have experienced rape/sexual assault during lifetime*. This indicator should be disaggregated further by perpetrator (intimate/other relative/other known person/stranger/state authority); and frequency (one/few/many time(s)).

Intimate partner violence

(e) *The percentage of women (over the total number of women who have ever had an intimate partner) who have experienced physical or sexual violence by current or former partner during the last year*. This indicator should be disaggregated further by frequency (one/few/many time(s)).

(f) *The percentage of women (over the total number of women who have ever had an intimate partner) who have* experienced physical or sexual violence by current or former partner during lifetime. This indicator should be disaggregated further by frequency (one/few/many time(s)).

Harmful practices[1]

Female genital mutilation/cutting

(g) *The percentage of women (over the total number of women) subjected to female genital mutilation/cutting*. This indicator should be disaggregated further by age.

[1] In the original report of the Expert Group Meeting, this subheading has the following footnote: "The proportion of women who are subjected to female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM) can be measured through population-based surveys only in countries where the number of women subjected to FGM is not too small. If the numbers are too small, sample surveys are not the proper tools and other methods should be used. Data from national censuses could also be used for the indicators on early marriage."

Early marriage

(h) *The percentage of women (over the total number of women) whose age at marriage is below 18 years.*

III. Technical evaluation

A. Criteria

6. The Friends of the Chair noted that this list of indicators and the proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting are recognized as an admirable effort and an excellent starting point for detailed discussion; the work of the group was significantly facilitated by the rich and productive outcomes and contributions of the Expert Group Meeting,[2] as well as other publications produced on this topic by the United Nations.[3]

7. The Friends of the Chair subjected these proposed indicators to a rigorous technical evaluation, taking into account national experiences in collecting, processing and disseminating statistics pertaining to violence against women, bearing in mind that most of the current national statistical systems do not routinely capture this phenomenon. The Friends of the Chair are also suggesting ways in which the compilation of the various indicators may be improved, for instance by proposing more rigorous concepts and definitions and by developing a classification by types of violence as well as the appropriate sources, either surveys or administrative records.

8. In discussing and evaluating the proposed indicators, the Friends of the Chair concluded that, in general, the basic set should meet a number of criteria, such as relevancy, establishing actions for prevention, sanction and eradication of violence against women, to satisfy needs for a political and policymaking apparatus, to ensure technical feasibility in statistical terms, comprehensibility/easiness to understand, interpret and estimate and to achieve a certain level of international comparability.

9. More specifically, the Friends of the Chair evaluated those indicators against the battery of questions regarding measurement and interpretation, relevancy and accuracy and universal applicability according to the following scheme:[4]

(a) Is it easy to measure and interpret?

(b) Is it relevant and accurate?

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[2] In addition to the *Report of the Expert Group Meeting — Indicators to measure violence against women*, the paper submitted by the Economic Commission for Europe Task Force on Measurement of Violence Against Women, *Analysis of national surveys carried out by countries of the Conference of European Statisticians to measure violence against women (ECE/CES/GE.30/2006/6)*, provided most useful input for the work of the Friends of the Chair.

[3] The publication entitled *Ending Violence Against Women: From Words to Action, Study of the Secretary-General* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.IV.8) provided a wealth of material for discussion.

[4] These descriptions are drawn from the publication entitled *Statistics Canada Quality Guidelines*, fourth edition, issued in October 2003 and available at: www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/12-539-XIE/12-539-XIE03001.pdf.

(c) Is it universally applicable?

10. The *interpretability* of statistical information reflects the availability of supplementary information and metadata necessary to interpret and utilize it appropriately. This information normally includes the underlying concepts, variables, classifications used, the methodology of data collection and processing, and indications or measures of the accuracy of the statistical information.

11. The *relevance* of statistical information reflects the degree to which it meets the real needs of clients. It is concerned with whether the available information sheds light on the issues that are important to users. Assessing relevance is subjective and depends upon the varying needs of users. The challenge of the national statistical authorities is to weigh and balance the conflicting needs of current and potential users to produce a programme that goes as far as possible in satisfying the most important needs within given resource constraints.

12. The *accuracy* of statistical information is the degree to which the information correctly describes the phenomena it was designed to measure. It is usually characterized in terms of error in statistical estimates and is traditionally divided into bias (systematic error) and variance (random error) components. It may also be described in terms of the major sources of error that potentially cause inaccuracy (e.g. coverage, sampling, non-response, response).

13. In addition, in recommending the indicators, the Friends of the Chair primarily evaluated the feasibility of indicators from the point of view of applicability within a national statistical system, fully aware and cognizant of the deficiencies of such a system in adequately quantifying such a social phenomenon.

14. Another general assessment and starting point refers to the fact that the Friends of the Chair supported the concept of focusing on physical and sexual violence against women, as it is extremely relevant and of universal concern at the present time.

B. Concepts, definitions and classifications

15. The Friends of the Chair raised a whole set of technical questions and issues pertaining to concepts, definitions and classifications that are necessary for developing statistical instruments and internationally harmonized statistical indicators.

16. In defining physical violence, the Friends of the Chair identified it as an act that inflicts physical harm to the body of the woman. It is also acknowledged that it is advantageous and necessary to identify and enumerate different violent behaviours, rather than relying on a broad definition, especially from the point of view of designing the survey to capture violence against women. Consequently, acts such as hitting, biting, kicking, slapping, pushing, shoving, grabbing, beating, choking and assault with different objects and weapons would all fall within this category.

17. The Friends of the Chair clearly recognize the need to establish a uniform statistical classification of these acts that would fall within the concept of physical violence. Such an exhaustive classification would also need to incorporate the severity of physical violence. It is necessary to undertake further work in achieving

such a classification, given the fact that the measures of severity may be on the objective side, that is, if violence resulted in bruises, broken bones or need for medical treatment or hospitalization; on the subjective side, some victims consider slaps very serious and suffered in a situation in which they feared for their life. Also, in the case of repeated victimization, one incidence of violence resulting in serious consequences (need for medical help, for example) clearly raises the overall severity of all the victimizations.

18. Friends of the Chair define sexual violence as an act aimed to force the woman to engage in sexual acts against her will (or without her consent). Sexual violence consists of a number of different acts, such as forcing her to perform undesired sexual acts or performing any sexual activity that the female finds degrading and humiliating: attempted rape, rape and aggravated rape, being forced into sexual activity with someone else or for money or for goods.

19. As is the case with physical violence, the Friends of the Chair recommend that further work be undertaken in order to develop an internationally comparable statistical classification of sexual violence that would guide national statistical authorities in designing appropriate statistical instruments to capture violence against women. Such a classification would have to distinguish different acts of sexual violence as well as incorporate the severity in the taxonomy. It may have two main branches, distinguishing rape and attempted rape on one side and other acts on the other.

20. Friends of the Chair point to the relationship to perpetrator as a key component of the statistical measurement of violence against women. This relationship refers to an intimate partner (current, immediate former or former), a relative, acquaintance, co-worker, government authority or stranger. A special emphasis is on physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner, a person with whom a woman maintains a sexual relationship either in a formal way (marriage) or by an agreed cohabiting relationship, excluding occasional or sporadic dating.

21. As is the case with the classifications for physical and sexual violence, the Friends of the Chair note the need to develop an internationally comparable statistical classification of relationship to perpetrators and recommend that the future work focus on this need as well.

22. The Friends of the Chair recommend that the term "last year" be replaced with the usual statistical concept such as the "last twelve months". It is also necessary to further elaborate the concept of "lifetime", since it has different connotations in regard to the age of the woman.

C. Sources of statistics

23. The Friends of the Chair point to specialized surveys at the national level as the most appropriate vehicle to accurately measure the violence against women. Nevertheless, owing to resource problems, well-designed modules within a general or other purpose survey would be an appropriate tool as well. In both cases, on the condition that they comply with strict protocols of confidentiality and security for the interviewees.

24. Another source of data refers to administrative sources, primarily police, judicial and health records, as well as all services that provide attention to victims, such as "safe houses" and other shelters' records.

25. In that context, the Friends of the Chair note that, while the phenomenon of violence against women is certainly not of recent origin, a strategic and systematic approach to measuring and combating it, is. Equally important as identifying indicators at a universal level is the provision of full-fledged methodological instructions aimed at facilitating the undertaking of regular, accurate, relevant statistical measurements of violence against women within national statistical systems by using all the available sources of statistics.

26. A number of national statistical authorities undertook statistical surveys on violence against women, either as stand-alone applications or as a part of victimization or general purpose social surveys. This wealth of empirical knowledge needs to be tapped into, given the number of challenging issues that are still pertinent: the content of the survey, screening techniques, sampling, type of survey, type of interview, training of interviewers, ensuring safety to respondents, links with other social surveys, and data analysis, to name a few.

27. Consequently, the Friends of the Chair recommend that the Statistical Commission consider requesting the United Nations Statistics Division to develop, based on existing national and international experiences, a set of Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence Against Women that will provide full methodological guidance regarding the selection of core and additional topics, sources of data, relevant statistical classifications, outputs, wording of the questions and all other pertinent issues.

IV. Basic set of international indicators for measuring violence against women

28. The Friends of the Chair recommend that the following set of indicators on violence against women represent a starting point for initiating further work on identifying the most appropriate measurements:

1. *Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency.*

2. *Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to physical violence during lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency.*

3. *Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months by relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency.*

4. *Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence during lifetime by relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency.*

5. *Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual or physical violence by current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months by frequency.*

6. *Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual or physical violence by current or former intimate partner during lifetime by frequency.*

29. The Friends of the Chair recognize the fact that the last two indicators overlap with the first four, as they are a subset of the former. However, intimate partner violence needs to be addressed independently, given its adverse impact on women and the family fabric in all societies.

30. The definition of terms is as follows:

(a) *Total rate*: Proportion of women aged 15 and over subjected to physical/sexual violence over the total number of women aged 15 and over. This rate may be presented as a fraction (e.g. 1 out of 10) or as a percentage (e.g. 10 per cent of total).

(b) *Age-specific rate*: Proportion of women of a certain age subjected to physical/sexual violence over the total number of women of the same age (5-year age groups starting at 15 years of age). This rate may be presented as a fraction (e.g. 1 out of 10) or as a percentage (e.g. 10 per cent of total).

(c) *Total and specific rates for intimate partner violence*: Proportion of women aged 15 and over subjected to physical or sexual violence by current or former partner over the total number of women aged 15 and over who have or had an intimate partner.

31. The Friends of the Chair recommend that two indicators require further assessment and may become part of the recommended set pending the outcome of the deliberations: early marriage and female genital mutilation.

32. As for the phenomenon of early marriage as a proxy for assessing violence against women, the Friends of the Chair noted that that was one of the phenomena that required a much heavier focus at the international level. Recognizing that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women, in its General Recommendation 21,[5] paragraphs 36-39, clearly singled out early marriage for its potential to generate adverse consequences on the status of women, the Friends of the Chair urge the Statistical Commission and other relevant United Nations bodies to further the work on reaching an international agreement regarding the definition of early marriage in the context of violence against women. The Friends of the Chair therefore recommend further evaluation of this phenomenon and its possible inclusion in the recommended set.

33. Female genital mutilation causes extreme harm to women; although not practised universally, it requires universal attention in view of its severity. The Friends of the Chair therefore recommend further evaluation of this phenomenon and its possible inclusion in the recommended set.

34. Given the seriousness of violence against women brought to its ultimate consequence, as is the case with femicide in general, and spousal homicide in particular, recognizing the importance of the necessity for approximate assessment of the scope of these phenomena at the national and international levels, and in

[5] See the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its thirteenth session, in 1994 (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/49/38), chap. I.A).

order for the countries to undertake adequate measures, the Friends of the Chair, in accordance to the proposal of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, suggest that special attention be paid to the possibility of introducing a specific indicator to be added to the proposed set: "Annual rate of femicides". This indicator refers to the total female homicides in a year, broken down by perpetrator, relationship to sexual abuse and whether the victim was a sex trade worker. This indicator can be derived only from the information from criminal or health registers. It is thus fundamental that the countries initiate a revision of national instruments for registering these events in order to capture the characteristics mentioned above, i.e., the perpetrator, involvement of sexual abuse and occupation of the victim.[6]

35. In addition, the Friends of the Chair identified a number of other manifestations of violence against women that have to be subjected to further evaluation and need to be assessed as possible topics for subnational, national, regional and international measurement, such as psychological and economic violence, stalking, physical and sexual violence in childhood, forced marriage, discrimination and economic violence at work, trafficking in women, impact of incidence of sexual violence against women on sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, assessing risk factors, assessing the extent to which women recognize the suffered violence as a crime, and the percentage of hidden violence unreported to the authorities, or, indeed, even within the community. The Friends of the Chair recommend that the work defining these and other indicators remain at the forefront of the activities of the Statistical Commission for the next five years, until the full spectrum of international indicators on violence against women is achieved.

V. Proposed actions by the Statistical Commission

36. The Statistical Commission may decide to:

(a) **Welcome and recognize the present report as an initial step in developing statistical indicators for measuring violence against women;**

(b) **Adopt the proposed statistical indicators for measuring violence against women as presented in paragraph 28 of this report as an interim set pending further elaboration;**

(c) **Request the Friends of the Chair to continue the work on developing the indicators in line with the recommendations in this report and to report regularly to the Statistical Commission;**

(d) **Request the United Nations Statistics Division to initiate and conduct work on developing a set of Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence Against Women that will provide full methodological guidance regarding the selection of core and additional topics, sources of data, relevant statistical classifications, outputs, wording of the questions and all other pertinent issues.**

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[6] As per "Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural, including the right to development, Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Yakin Ertürk, Indicators on violence against women and State response" (A/HRC/7/6 of 29 January 2008), submitted to the Human Rights Council at its seventh session.